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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT State Controlled Displacement
of Bulgarian PopulationPLACE ACQUIRED
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1. Under the law, all persons wishing to change their place of residence in Bulgaria must have an identity card. However, a special permit, issued by a special office of the militia in the district concerned, must be secured by any Bulgarian citizen who wishes to move either into, or out of, a frontier region.
2. In fact, regardless of what the law says, most of the Bulgarian population has no liberty to change residence at all. This is true because so large a part of the population comes under the militia's classification of persons "not faithful to the regime." This includes:
 - a. All persons in legal opposition between 1944 and 1947, the legality of their opposition to the government making no difference whatever.
 - b. All persons brought before people's tribunals, no matter whether they were adjudged guilty or not guilty.
 - c. All persons whose property has been nationalized.
 - d. All persons who have been in forced labor camps or prisons, since 9 Sep 44.
 - e. All persons who, during recent years, have refused to enter collective farms, i.e., the so-called "kulaks."
 - f. All persons directly related in blood to persons in the five categories above listed.

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3. In cases where there is urgent need for travel, persons in these categories must present themselves before the local militia commander and explain the reasons to him. They must also state the purpose of the trip, the means of transportation, the exact itinerary, and the program planned for the period away from home. In many cases the local militia commander telephones the commander in the district to be visited and has the prospective host interrogated, too. This unfortunate may then find himself reproached for receiving in his home an "enemy of the people."
4. The militia commander who has authorized the trip receives complete information regarding everything done by the traveler. On his return, the latter must himself explain again everything he has done. Otherwise, he gets into trouble and may receive punishment.
5. Each newcomer in any vicinity, be it city or village, no matter whether he is living in a hotel or a private home, must fill out a form. This involves about thirty questions, which include the name of the commander granting him permission to travel, occupation, family, documents in his possession, and so on. On the very day of arrival, the owner of the hotel or of the house where the visitor is living must turn this form in to the police. This must be in triplicate (original and two copies). One is signed by a militia official and returned, either to the proprietor or to his lodger.
6. On the day when the traveler departs, this last copy is returned to the militia, with an annotation indicating hour of departure, means of transportation, and destination. Often there is a "control" visit between the hours of 1 a.m. and 4 a.m., so as to make sure the visitor is really in for the night.
7. Persons who receive travelers without documents are subject to very heavy fines. If there is any ground for suspicion, they are arrested.

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